



Open access – compliance, freedom and responsibility

Stephen Curry | Professor of Structural Biology | Imperial College London | Pasteur4OA Meeting | 17 May 2016

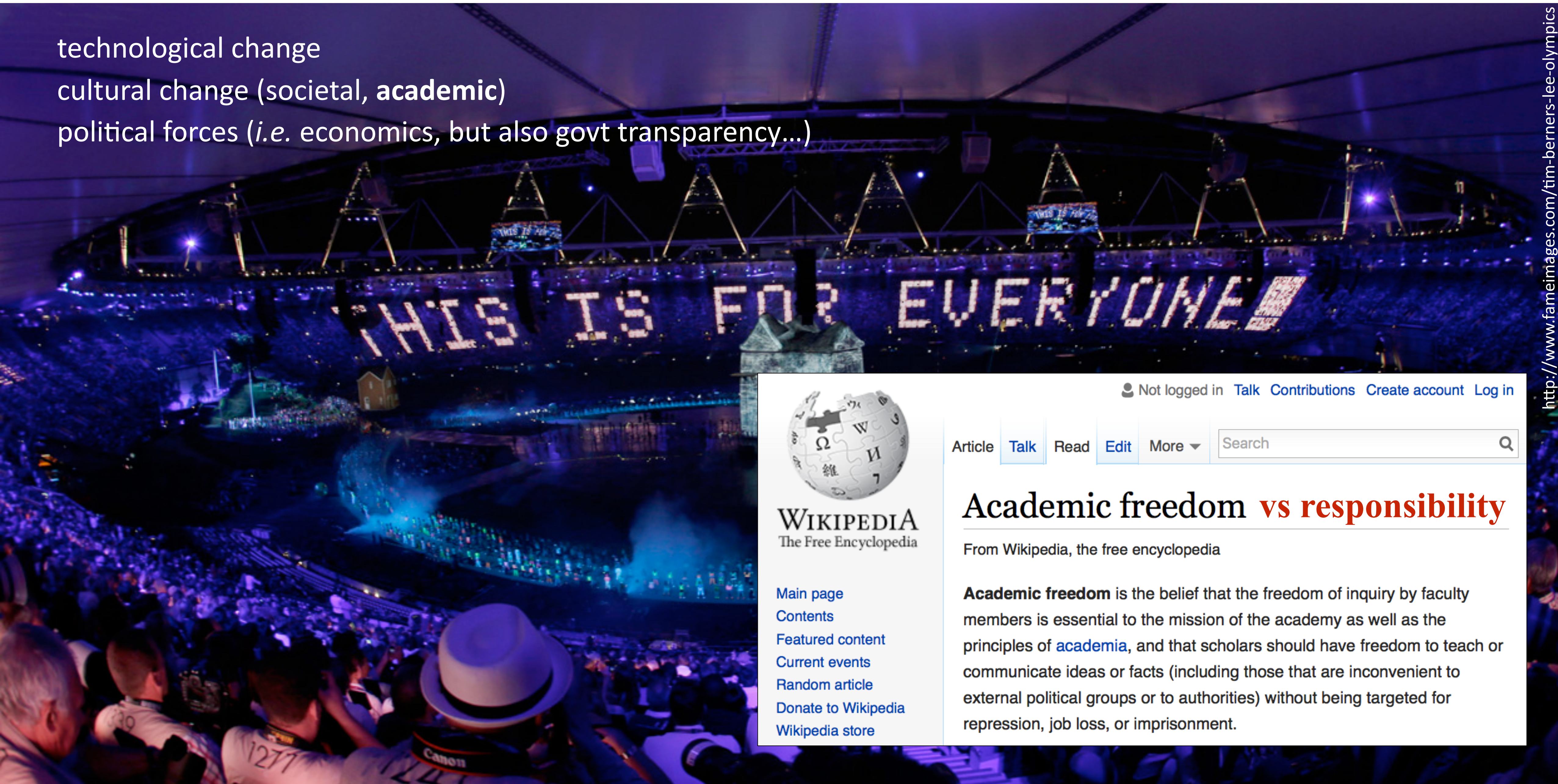
Open access – a good fit to academic culture but there are tensions

technological change
cultural change (societal, **academic**)
political forces (*i.e.* economics, but also govt transparency...)



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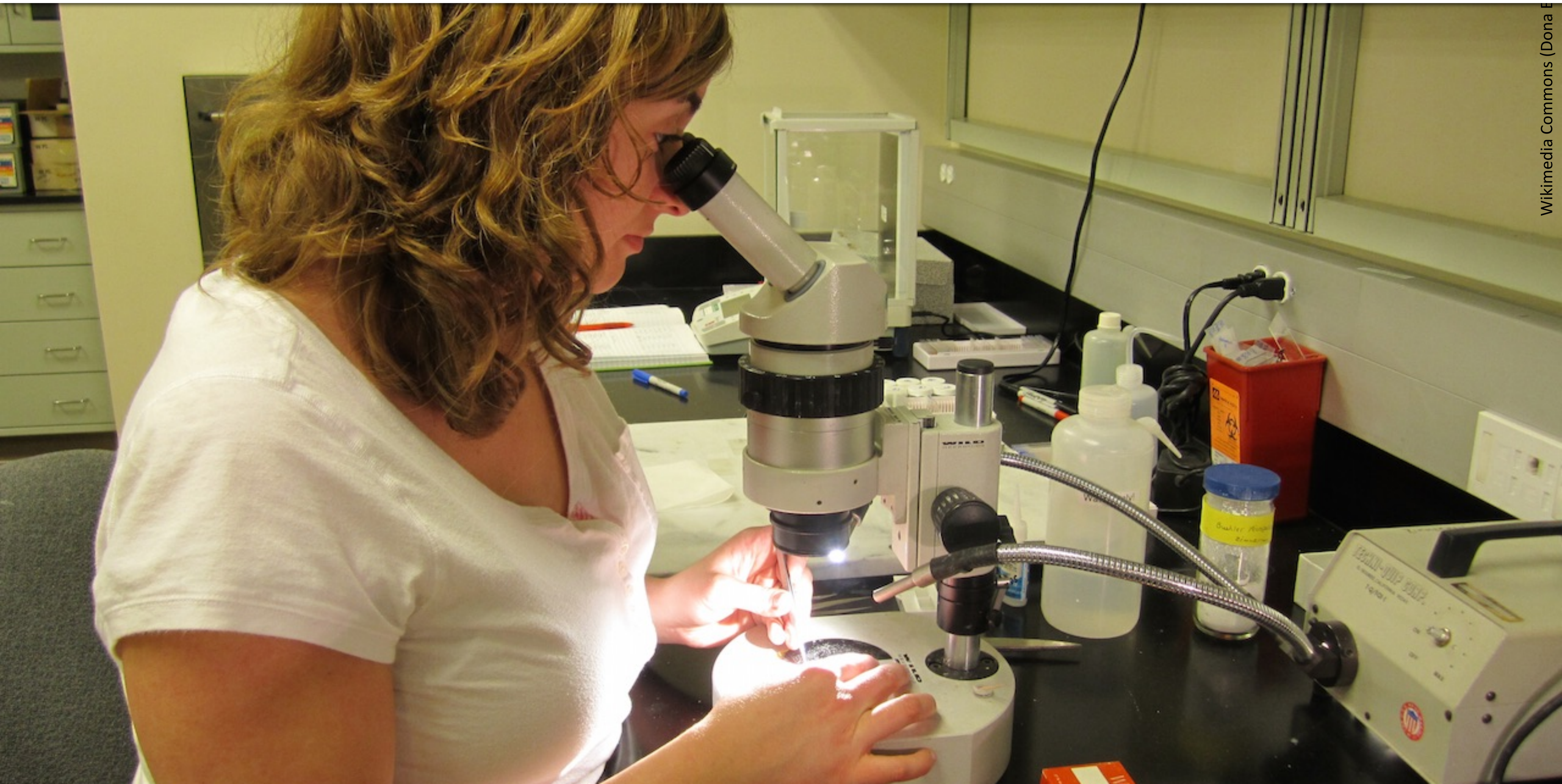
Academic freedom **vs responsibility**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Academic freedom is the belief that the freedom of inquiry by faculty members is essential to the mission of the academy as well as the principles of [academia](#), and that scholars should have freedom to teach or communicate ideas or facts (including those that are inconvenient to external political groups or to authorities) without being targeted for repression, job loss, or imprisonment.

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Researchers are focused on research...



Researchers are focused on research...



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Scholarly-Communication Reform: Why Is it So Hard to Talk About, and Where are the Authors?

POSTED BY [RICK ANDERSON](#) • MAY 16, 2016 • 11 COMMENTS

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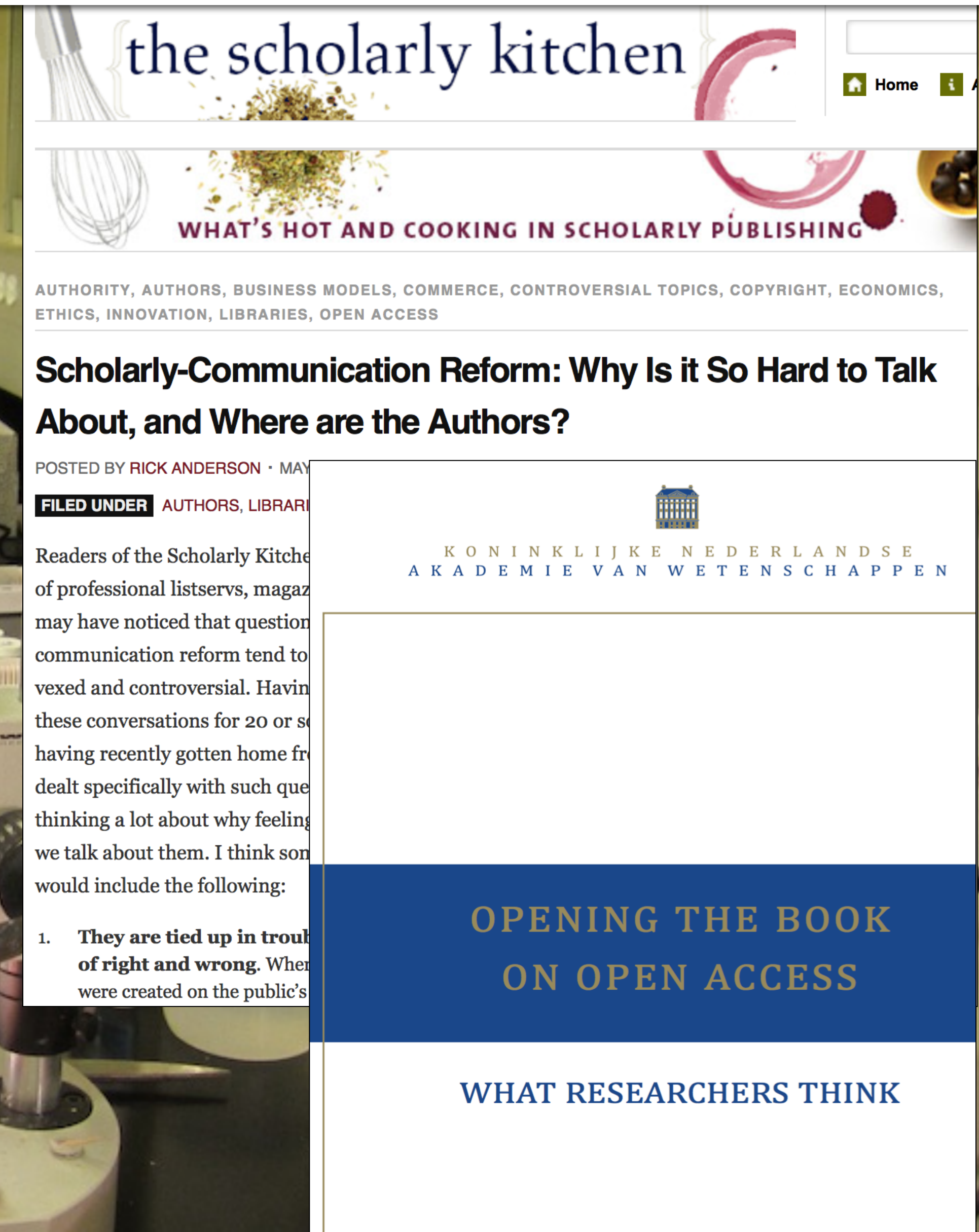
Readers of the Scholarly Kitchen (or of any number of professional listservs, magazines, journals, etc.) may have noticed that questions about scholarly-communication reform tend to be, shall we say, vexed and controversial. Having participated in these conversations for 20 or so years now, and having recently gotten home from a conference that dealt specifically with such questions, I've been thinking a lot about why feelings run so high when we talk about them. I think some of the reasons would include the following:




Source: pickthebrain.com

1. **They are tied up in troublesome questions of right and wrong.** When Person A speaks of the public's right to have access to scholarly products that were created on the public's dime, he's invoking a moral principle: that charging for access to such products

Researchers are focused on research...



Researchers are sympathetic but compliance and costs are issues



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Wealthy medical charity says it will withhold researchers' final grant payments if they fail to make their results open access



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Developing an Effective Market for Open Access Article Processing Charges

Bo-Christer Björk and David Solomon

March 2014

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March 2014

Open access to research publications

Independent advice

Professor Adam Tickell

Provost and Vice-Principal, University of Birmingham

Chair of the Universities UK Open Access Coordination Group

“There has been some concern raised by research funders about the quality of service received from publishers in return for Gold OA charges... These problems are particularly prevalent amongst publishers offering a hybrid OA option.”

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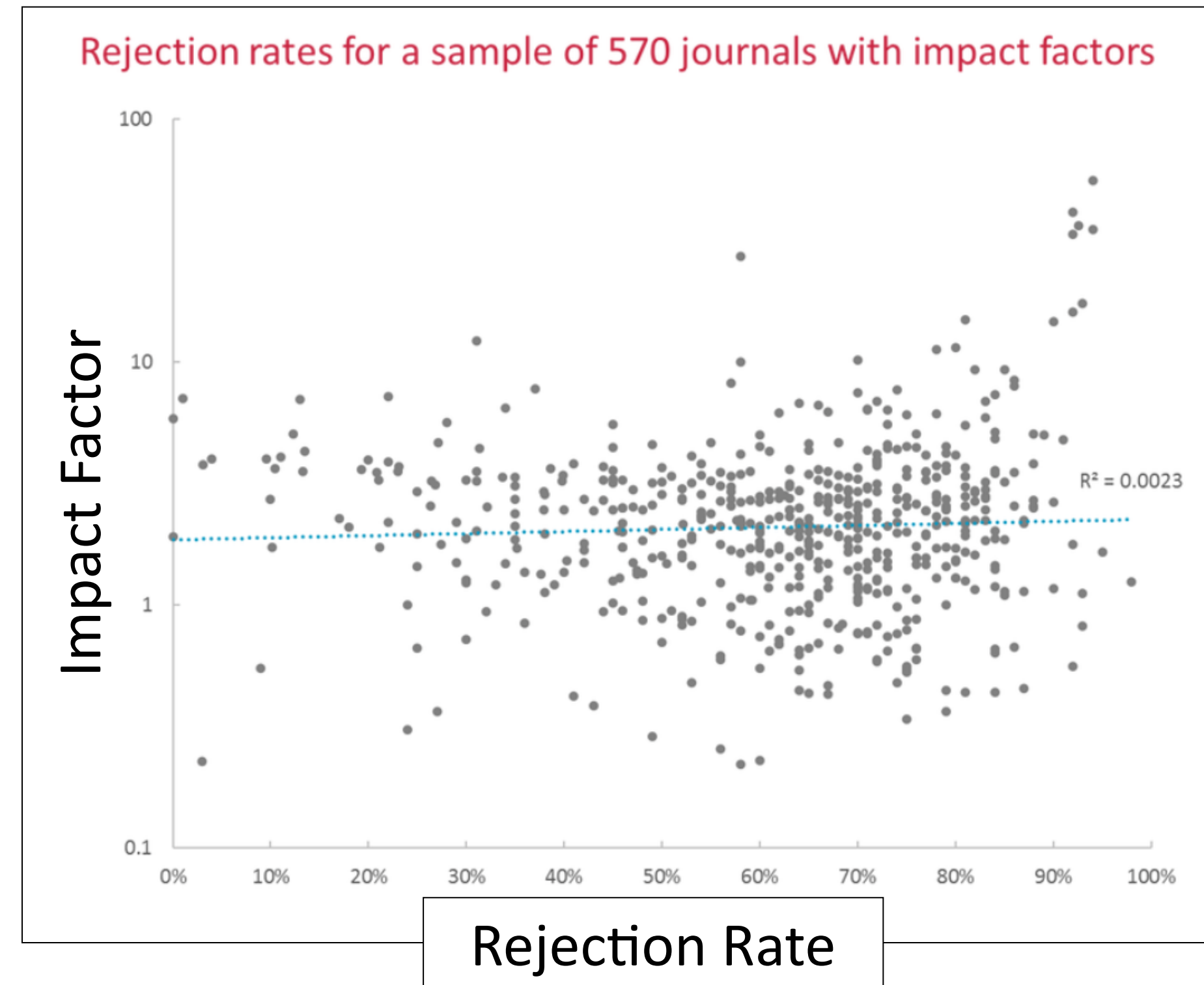
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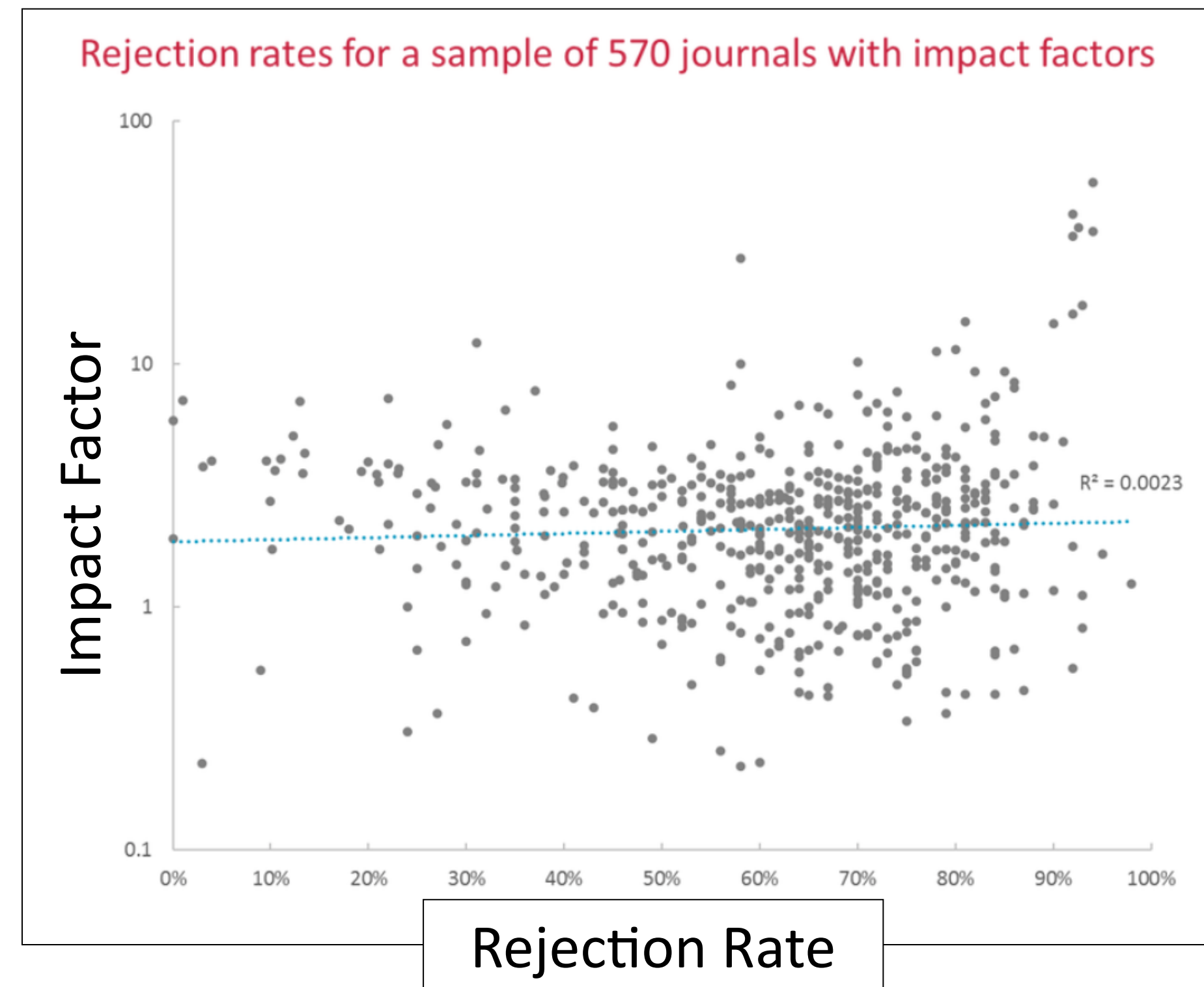
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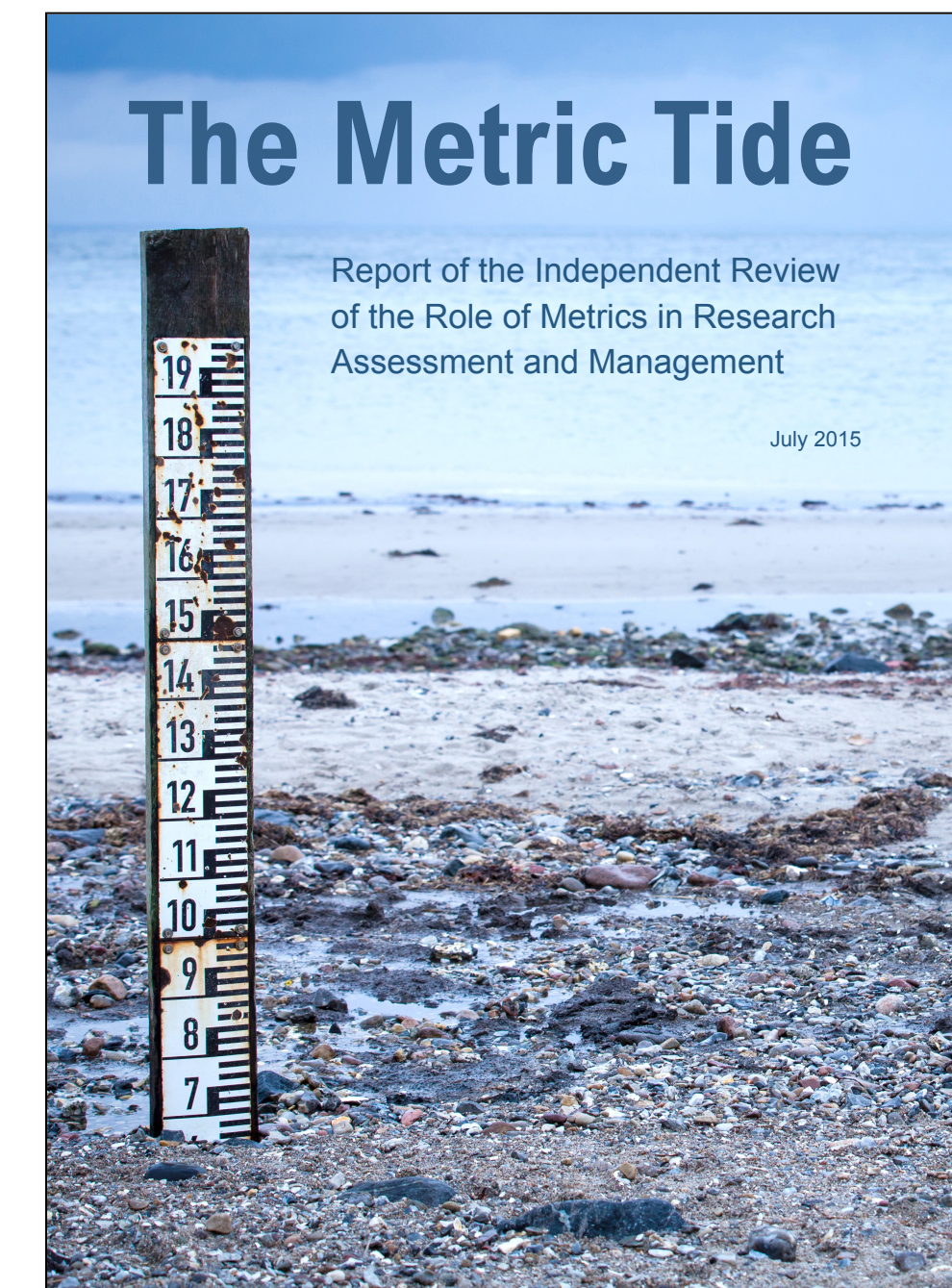
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HEFCE: linking open access to the REF was genius, but...

Policy for open access in the post-2014 Research Excellence Framework

Updated July 2015



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HEFCE Open Access policy, post-2014 REF

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Poynder's critique of HEFCE open access policy – and rebuttal





Tweets by @RickyPo



rd Poynder
@RickyPo

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Open Access and the Research Excellence Framework: Strange bedfellows yoked together by HEFCE

When the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) announced its open access policy last March the news was greeted with great enthusiasm by OA advocates, who view it as a “game changer” that will ensure all UK research becomes freely available on the Internet. They were especially happy that HEFCE has opted for a green OA policy, believing that this will provide an essential green component to the UK’s “otherwise one-sided gold OA policy”. The HEFCE policy will come into effect on 1st April 2016, but how successful can we expect it to be, and what are the implications of linking open access to the much criticised Research Excellence Framework (REF) in the way HEFCE has done? These are, after all, strange bedfellows. Might there be better ways of ensuring that research is made open access?

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“the HEFCE policy is problematic — because the REF process has little or nothing to do with rewards, but a great deal to do with **sanctions and punishment**. As such, the HEFCE policy could turn researchers away from open access rather than towards it.

...the principles inherent to the OA movement are those of sharing and egalitarianism, not elitism and sanctions...”

Poynder’s critique of HEFCE open access policy – and rebuttal





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“the HEFCE policy is problematic — because the REF process has little or nothing to do with rewards, but a great deal to do with **sanctions and punishment**. As such, the HEFCE policy could turn researchers away from open access rather than towards it.

...the principles inherent to the OA movement are those of sharing and egalitarianism, not elitism and sanctions...”



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James Wilsdon


James Wilsdon is professor of research policy and director of impact and engagement in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Sheffield. An updated book edition of *The Metric Tide* was recently published by Sage Publications.

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Poynder's critique of HEFCE open access policy – and rebuttal

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Open Access and the Research Excellence Framework: Strange bedfellows yoked together by HEFCE

When the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) announced its open access policy last March the news was greeted with great enthusiasm by OA advocates, who view it as a “game changer” that will ensure all UK research becomes freely available on the Internet. They were especially happy that HEFCE has opted for a *green* OA policy, believing that this will provide an essential green component to the UK’s “otherwise one-sided *gold* OA policy”. The HEFCE policy will come into effect on 1st April 2016, but how successful can we expect it to be, and what are the implications of linking open access to the much criticised Research Excellence Framework (REF) in the way HEFCE has done? These are, after all, strange bedfellows. Might there be better ways of ensuring that research is made open access?

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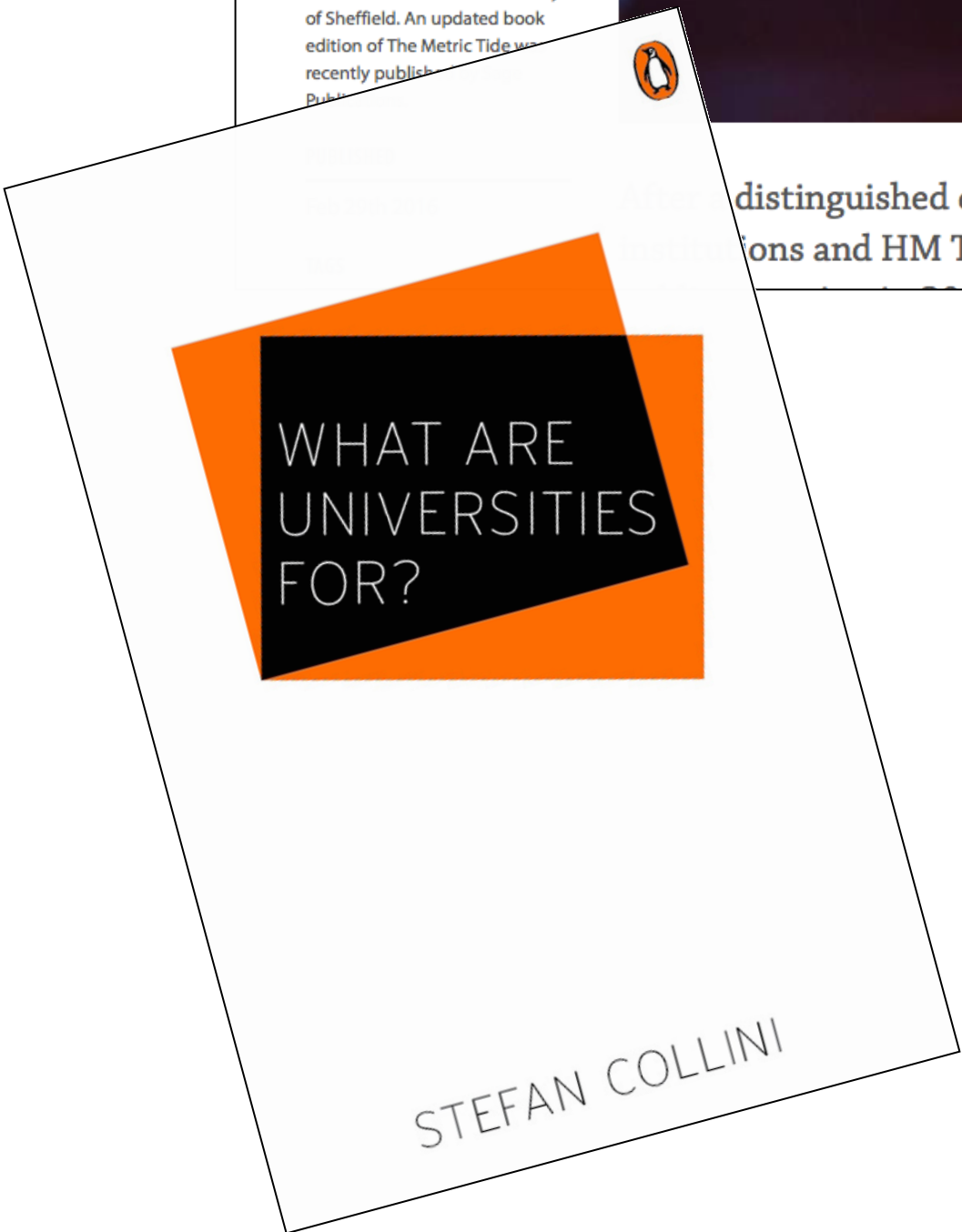
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A few weeks ago my collaborators and I submitted our latest paper to a scientific journal. We have been investigating how noroviruses subvert the molecular machinery of infected cells and have some interesting results. If it passes peer review, our paper could be published in three or four months' time. If it's rejected, we may have to re-work the manuscript before trying our luck with another journal. That will delay publication even further - it's not unheard of for papers to take a year or more to get out of the lab and into the world, even in the digital age.

- Access
- Pre-prints (for speed)
- Open peer review
- Largest possible audience (sharing & scrutiny)

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Zika virus initiative reveals deeper malady in scientific publishing

Stephen Curry

Moves to speed up the release of Zika virus research in response to the public health crisis highlight a systemic failure in scientific publishing. Help could be at hand at the ASAPbio meeting today in the USA

Contact author

@Stephen_Curry

Tuesday 16 February 2016 11.54 GMT

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Too far behind

Photograph: Viti

In response to the Zika virus outbreak, the World Health Organization (WHO) has called for a rapid release of research findings. This is a call for a more open and transparent scientific publishing system, one that allows for the rapid dissemination of information and the sharing of data. The WHO is not alone in this call. Many other organizations, including the European Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom, have also called for a more open and transparent scientific publishing system. This is a call for a more open and transparent scientific publishing system, one that allows for the rapid dissemination of information and the sharing of data.

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Wheat blast is a fearsome fungal disease of wheat. It was first discovered in Paraná State of Brazil in 1985. It spread rapidly to other South American countries such as Colombia, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina, where it infects up to 3 million hectares and causes serious crop losses. Wheat blast was also detected in Kentucky, USA, in 2011.

Wheat blast is caused by a fungus known as *Magnaporthe oryzae* although scientists are still debating its exact identity. There is a risk that wheat blast could expand beyond South America and threaten food security in wheat growing areas in Asia and Africa.

- Data sharing (sharing & scrutiny)
- Better for addressing societal problems

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Filed under Scientific Method

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Principles for Predicting RNA Secondary Structure Design Difficulty

Jeff Anderson-Lee^{1,†}, Eli Fisker^{1,†}, Vineet Kosaraju^{1,2,†}, Michelle Wu^{1,3,†}, Justin Kong^{1,4}, Jeehyung Lee^{1,4}, Minjae Lee^{1,4}, Mathew Zada¹, Adrien Treuille^{1,4,5} and Rhiju Das^{1,2,6}

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Edited by A. Pyle

Abstract

Designing RNAs that form specific secondary structures is enabling better understanding and control of living systems through RNA-guided silencing, genome editing and protein organization. Little is known, however, about which RNA secondary structures might be tractable for downstream sequence design, increasing the time and expense of design efforts due to inefficient secondary structure choices. Here, we present insights into specific structural features that increase the difficulty of finding sequences that fold into a target RNA secondary structure, summarizing the design efforts of tens of thousands of human participants and three automated algorithms (RNAInverse, INFO-RNA and RNA-SSD) in the Eterna massive open laboratory. Subsequent tests through three independent RNA design algorithms (NUPACK, DSS-Opt and MODENA) confirmed the hypothesized importance of several features in determining design difficulty, including sequence length, mean stem length, symmetry and specific difficult-to-design motifs such as zigzags. Based on these results, we have compiled an Eterna100 benchmark of 100 secondary structure design challenges that span a large range in design difficulty to help test future efforts. Our *in silico* results suggest new routes for improving computational RNA design methods and for extending these insights to assess "designability" of single RNA structures, as well as of switches for *in vitro* and *in vivo* applications.

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Thank you

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